## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



### **COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO**

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 3, 2012 PSA # 12-35

# Sentinel Chickens and Dead Crow in San Bernardino County Test Positive for West Nile Virus

San Bernardino: The State laboratory has confirmed that six chickens from sentinel flocks in Colton, Rialto, and Upland have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). A dead crow collected in the city of San Bernardino also tested positive for WNV. These are the first chickens and the first dead bird that have tested positive for WNV in 2012 within the area served by the County of San Bernardino's Mosquito and Vector Control Program. Previously this year, four samples of mosquitoes in Colton, Fontana, and San Bernardino had also tested positive for WNV.

The California Department of Public Health encourages the public to participate in the West Nile Virus surveillance program, by reporting dead birds or squirrels to the State West Nile Virus toll-free hotline at (877) WNV- BIRD, or online at <a href="https://www.westnile.ca.gov">www.westnile.ca.gov</a>.

Property owners with pools are encouraged to keep them clean. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in unmaintained green pools and can fly up to 1.5 miles per hour, potentially transmitting the virus and impacting entire neighborhoods. Please report green pools and other sources of mosquito breeding to the County of San Bernardino's Mosquito and Vector Control Program at (800) 442-2283.

San Bernardino County residents can protect themselves and their families from West Nile Virus by taking these precautions:

- **Drain or Dump** Remove all standing water around your property where mosquitos lay eggs such as birdbaths, green swimming pools, ponds, old tires, buckets, clogged gutters, or even puddles from leaky sprinklers.
- Dawn and Dusk Avoid spending time outside when mosquitos are most active.

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- **Dress** Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeved shirts that are loose fitting and light colored.
- **DEET** Apply insect repellent containing DEET according to manufacturer's directions.
- **Doors** Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes to prevent mosquitos from entering your home.

Horses are also susceptible to West Nile Virus, a vaccine is available for horses and owners are advised to contact their veterinarians about vaccinations.

For more information, contact the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services at (800) 442-2283 or visit our website at www.sbcounty.gov/dehs.

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